

CLAIMS:

1. A system intended to receive encoded and scrambled data signals and process these signals in order to convert them to output stimuli that can be readily understood by a user of this system, which comprises:

- a data signal decoder,
- an output device provided with means for generating the output stimuli on the basis of output signals from the decoder,
- descrambling means for descrambling the data signals, said means being intended to be activated by an enabling signal,
- enabling means, which are intended to receive protected information from a transmitter of data signals, and to supply the enabling signal following upon the reception of said information

wherein the descrambling means comprise hardware for executing a conditional access software program for controlling the descrambling of said data signals, said software program being intended to be transported to the descrambling means by the enabling signal.

2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the descrambling means are included in the decoder.

3. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the enabling means are incorporated in the decoder.

4. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the decoder is incorporated in the output device.

5. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the decoder is provided with an interface so as to enable data to be exchanged with peripheral equipment, and wherein the conditional access software program is intended to be transferred from the enabling means to the descrambling means via this interface by the enabling signal.

6. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the enabling means comprise a memory wherein the protected information is stored including said conditional access software program for controlling the descrambling.

7. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the enabling means include a detachable memory medium reader, the protected information being intended to be stored in the memory of this medium.

8. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein the detachable memory medium is a chip card.

9. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the enabling means are provided with a modem enabling a real-time data exchange between the system and a transmitter of data signals.

10. A method of descrambling and decoding data signals within a system intended to convert said signals into output stimuli that can be readily understood by a user of this system, which process includes a step of transferring a conditional access software program, from enabling means intended to receive protected information from a transmitter of data signals, to descrambling means comprising hardware for executing said software program.